



TURN TO: LEVITICUS 26

INTRODUCTION:

Today is Super Bowl Sunday – here’s a list of the Top 10 football terms and their definitions with a little church twist added...

1. Fumble – when you forget the words to the song
2. Quarterback Sneak - People entering the building five minutes after worship begins
3. End Run - diaper changing time in the nursery
4. Quarterback - what church members want after putting 50 cent in the offering
5. In The Pocket - where too many church members keep God's tithe and offerings
6. Penalty - what the church gets when its members stay home
7. Illegal Motion - leaving before the service ends
8. Interference - whispering and talking during the message
9. Punt - what the pastor does when you come to him with an idea and he makes you in charge of it
10. Tackle -- when an alert usher does when one of the youth is sneaking out of the service

Today we look at the benefits of grace

Leviticus 26:3 (NKJV)

³ 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

- Our text begins with a conditional word... if you walk, keep and perform My statutes, My commandments
- To walk in My statutes simply means to live life God’s way
- To keep My commandments means to take heed to or pay special attention to God’s Code of Wisdom
- God’s commandments provide the wisest and most sensible way for people to live their lives
- To perform God’s commandments means to work it out in everyday life

SIDE NOTE: One of the things we need to keep in mind when reading the Old Testament is the Old Testament is the New concealed

- The New Testament is the Old revealed



- So when we look at the Old Testament, we need to understand that God is showing us the life that He has intended for us to live
- Where the Old Testament is conditional based on our obedience – if you walk in My statutes
- The New Testament is conditional based on the obedience of Christ

Paul tells us in Romans 5:19

Romans 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

- Because Jesus obeyed perfectly, all the benefits of grace are ours by entrusting and surrendering our lives completely to Christ
- Obedience comes naturally because Jesus now lives in and through me

As we look at today's passage, we are going to see a list of FIVE (5) benefits that is ours to enjoy in Christ

- Provision
- Peace
- Protection
- People
- Presence

The first benefit that is ours to enjoy in Christ is Provision

Leviticus 26:3–5 (NKJV)

³ 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

⁵ Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

TRUTH: God has always promised to provide for His people

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.



One commentator wrote concerning this verse, “Here is a bank that never breaks; no demand made upon it will find it wanting, or unready — for ‘it’ is He.” Everything, literally everything, God has for us is in Christ Jesus. Come, then, you sinners and you saints: here is God’s Plenty; here is grace truly abounding.

- We may not know how God will provide, we may not know when He will provide, but one thing we can be sure of is God will provide

There is a story about a dear old widow who lived all alone. On one occasion, she had spent her last penny and was just finishing her last loaf of bread. As she had often done, she got down on her knees and asked God to give her that day her daily bread (Matthew 6:11). Because it was a hot summer day, the windows of her house were open. A gang of trouble-makers were passing by. They paused at her window, and mocked her prayer. They decided to have some fun at the expense of this simple believing woman. They bought a loaf of bread, and when she prayed again, they dropped it on the floor just inside her window. She looked up from her prayer, saw the bread, and immediately began to thank God for it. The boys ran into the house, laughing at her as they told her of their prank. “God didn’t hear your prayer. We brought you the bread, not God!” She smiled answered, “No, you are mistaken. It was the Lord who sent the bread — even if he used some of the devil’s boys to deliver the package!”

The second benefit that is ours to enjoy in Christ is Peace

Leviticus 26:3, 6 (NKJV)

³ ‘If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, ⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make *you* afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

- The Hebrew word for peace is the word Shalom and we really don’t have an English equivalent to this word
- This word encompasses completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, safety, health, prosperity, contentment and friendship
- It’s more than just the absence of conflict
- It’s the Presence of peace that comes from restored relationship with God



The Bible calls this peace that passes all understanding

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Now some of you are thinking... that's easy to say, hard to do
- To which I respond, I guess it depends on where you put your trust

EX: I have a friend who spoke to Pastor Chuck about his current bout with lung cancer. Pastor Chuck said to him, it's just another opportunity for God to get all the glory. He said in an interview with Dan Wooding, a news correspondent for Worship Life Radio, that the worst thing that could happen to him is that he would die and go to heaven and that wouldn't be so bad. The reason why he is talking about it is because he wants people to know what it looks like to face a life threatening situation with a total trust and dependence on God. Pastor Chuck has that peace that passes understanding.

The third benefit that is ours to enjoy in Christ is Protection

Leviticus 26:3, 7-8 (NKJV)

³ 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, ⁷ You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. ⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

- There is no greater example of this than the Six Day War between Israel and Jordan, Syria and Egypt.
- The Israel National News Arutz Sheva published this story on May 16, 2007

What was the single greatest miracle of the entire Six Day War? Not an easy question, for there were so many miracles, both hidden and revealed. There is no end to the stories that have been documented from the battles: of the Egyptian tank commander in the Sinai Desert who surrendered to a vastly inferior Israeli force on the second day of the war, because a desert



mirage made him see hundreds of Israeli tanks where there were no more than a dozen; of the Jordanian forces who welcomed the Israeli tanks under the command of Colonel Uri Ram into Shechem on the third day of the war, because faulty communications misled the Arabs into thinking that these were Iraqi tanks come to reinforce them; of the battle for Ammunition Hill on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem, which was captured by an Israeli scout by mistake when he fell into a Jordanian trench in the moonless night at 2:00 o'clock on Tuesday morning and started shooting from the hip and the fall of Ammunition Hill was the necessary prelude to the capture of Jerusalem 30 hours later. The Israeli forces were outnumbered 3 to 1 and yet in six days they captured the entire Sinai Desert, including the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and half of Jerusalem.

- The reason I use this example is because if I tell you a story from my life you can say... that's great for you
- But if I tell you a story from history that involves an entire nation... it's harder for you to say that doesn't apply to me

When Egypt was seeking to destroy Israel, God puts Himself between Egypt and Israel

Exodus 14:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness *to the one*, and it gave light by night *to the other*, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

- When we look at the testimony of history – both in the world and in our own lives we come to the conclusion that God is faithful to protect His people
- And His past faithfulness demands our present trust

The fourth benefit that is ours to enjoy in Christ is People

Leviticus 26:3 (NKJV)

³ 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, ⁹ 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you



and confirm My covenant with you. ¹⁰ You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.

The natural result of living God's way is healthy people and healthy people make babies

- In other words, life is happening
- God says He will make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm His covenant with you
- The old is cleared out and room is made for the new

What does He mean His covenant?

- God is referring to the Covenant He made with Abraham, Issac and Jacob to make them into a great nation
- It's a reference to God's continued blessing and favor on the nation of Israel

God promises to do the same thing with the Church?

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- Now you have to go to Israel to get the picture of what Jesus is saying here
- The place where Jesus said this is Caesarea Philippi
- Caesarea Philippi is a town that was built at the base of Mount Hermon and it's the source of the largest spring that feeds the Jordan River
- The spring emerged from a large cave that was the center of pagan worship and it was considered to be a passage to the underworld called the gates of Hades
- The ground is packed with little jagged pieces of rock
- I want you for a moment to imagine this conversation
- Jesus bends down and picks up one of the rocks from the ground and says – I say to you that you are Peter (which means little rock).
- Then He points His finger to Mount Hermon – this massive solid rock that stands hundreds of feet tall and Jesus says – upon this rock I will build my church
- Then he points to the cave where the springs emerge and says – and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it



The visual imagery is stunning and it makes the point... God is building His church and nothing will get in the way

- Acts 2 – 3000 people saved
- Acts 4 – 5000 people saved
- Acts 5 – multitudes of converts
- Acts 6 – the numbers multiplied
- Is God into numbers? No, but He's into people – lots of people coming to Christ... are you?

The fourth benefit that is ours to enjoy in Christ is Presence

Leviticus 26:3 (NKJV)

³ 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, ¹¹ I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. ¹³ I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that *you* should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

- God promises to dwell with us and not reject us
- God promises to walk among us, to be our God
- God says that we belong to Him because He delivered us from Egypt which symbolically represents a life in bondage to sin
- God says that He has broken off the bands of your yoke – the things that held us down, the kept us in bondage and has made us to walk upright

Paul told us in Ephesians...

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- This verse is often misquoted saying that this church grieves the Spirit by not letting the Spirit have the freedom to move and interrupt a service
- Paul says what grieves the Spirit is lying, anger, laziness, stealing, damaging words, bitterness, wrath, evil speaking, hatred, hurtful speech.
- These are the things that quench the Spirit